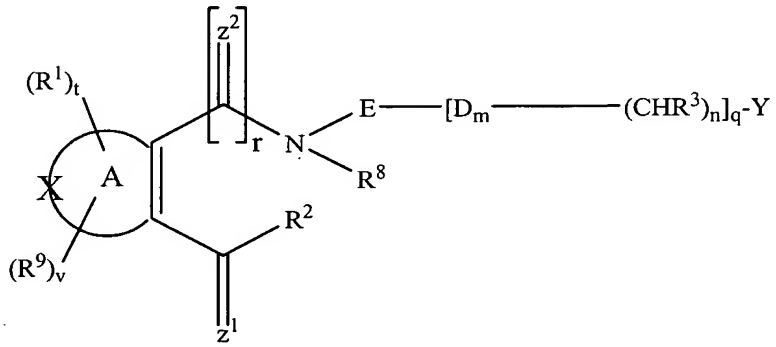
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A compound of the general formula (I) or a salt or a physiologically functional derivative thereof:



(I)

wherein

A is a non-heterocyclic non-aromatic ring system containing 4 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein the ring system comprises at least one double bond and wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring represented by X may optionally be carbonyl (C=O);

D is O, S, $SO_2$, $NR^4$ or $CH_2$;

[[Z]] $z^1$ and [[Z]] $z^2$ are, independently, O, S, or $NR^5$;

$R^1$ is independently $-CO_2R''$, $-SO_3H$, -CONR*R``, -CR``O, $-SO_2$-NR*R``, $-NO_2$, $-SO_2$-R``, -SO-R*, -CN, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, -NR``-$CO_2$-R`, - NR``-CO-R*, -NR``-$SO_2$-R`, -O-CO-R*, -O-$CO_2$-R*, -O-CO-NR*R``, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, aryl, or heteroaryl;

$R^9$ is independently H, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy or alkyl;

R* is independently H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R` is independently H, $-CO_2R''$, -CONHR``, CR``O, $-SO_2NR''$, -NR``-CO-haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, NR``-$SO_2$-haloalkyl, -NR``-$SO_2$-alkyl, $-SO_2$-alkyl, -NR``-CO-alkyl, -CN,

alkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl or heteroaryl;

R`` is independently hydrogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or aminoalkyl;

$R^2$ is H, $OR^6$, or $NHR^7$;

$R^3$ is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, O-aryl, O-cycloalkyl, halogen, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxylamino, hydroxylalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, heteroaryl, alkylthio, S-aryl, or S-cycloalkyl;

$R^4$ is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

$R^5$ is H, OH, alkoxy, O-aryl, alkyl, or aryl;

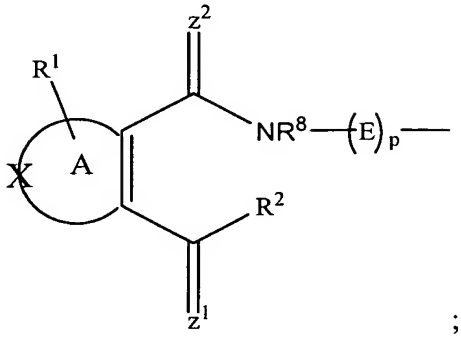
$R^6$ is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, alkylaryl, alkoxyalkyl, acylmethyl, (acyloxy)alkyl, non-symmetrical (acyloxy)alkyldiester, or dialkylphosphate;

$R^7$ is H, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, O-aryl, cycloalkyl, or O-cycloalkyl;

$R^8$ is hydrogen or alkyl;

E is an alkyl or cycloalkyl group which is substituted by $[D_m—(CHR_3)_n]_qY$ or a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system which contains at least one aromatic ring;

Y is hydrogen, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system and which contains at least one aromatic ring or



;

m is 0 or 1;

n is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

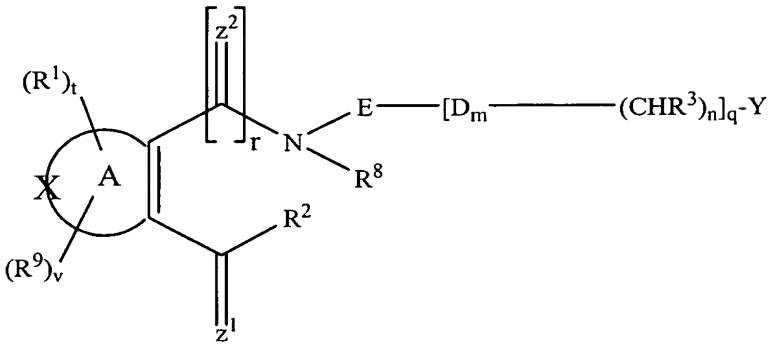
r is 0 or 1;

q is 0 or 1;

t is 1 to 3; and

v is 0 to 3.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A compound of the general formula (Ia) or a salt or a physiologically function derivative thereof,



(Ia)

wherein

A is a non-heterocyclic non-aromatic ring system containing 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 carbon atoms, wherein the ring system comprises at least one double bond and wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring represented by X may be carbonyl (C=O);

D is O, S, $SO_2$, $NR^4$, or $CH_2$;

[[Z]] $z^1$ and [[Z]] $z^2$ are, independently, O, S, or $NR^5$;

$R^1$ is independently H, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy $-CO_2R``$, $-SO_3H$, -OH, $-CONR^*R``$, $-CR``O$, $-SO_2-NR^*R``$, $-NO_2$, $-SO_2-R``$, -SO-R*, -CN, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, $--NR``-CO_2-R`$, $-NR``-CO-R^*$, $-NR``-SO_2-R`$, -O-CO-R*, $-O-CO_2-R^*$, -O-CO-NR*R``; cycloalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, - SH, heteroaryl, or alkyl;

R* is independently H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R` is independently H, $-CO_2R``$, $-CONHR``$, $CR``O$, $-SO_2NR``$, $-NR``-CO-$haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $NR``-SO_2-$haloalkyl, $-NR``-SO_2-$alkyl, $-SO_2-$alkyl, $-NR``-CO-$alkyl, -CN, alkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl or heteroaryl;

R`` is independently hydrogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or aminoalkyl;

$R^2$ is NHOH or $R^2$ together with the nitrogen atom which is attached to $R^8$ form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with the proviso that $R^2$ is $-[CH_2]$, and $R^8$ is absent;

$R^3$ is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, O-aryl; O-cycloalkyl, halogen; aminoalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxylamino, hydroxylalkyl, haloalkyloxy, heteroaryl, alkylthio, S-aryl; S-cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, or haloalkyl;

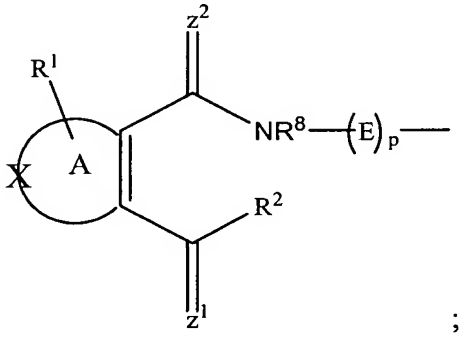
$R^4$ is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

$R^5$ is H, OH, alkoxy, O-aryl, alkyl or aryl;

$R^8$ is hydrogen, or alkyl;

E is an alkyl or cycloalkyl group which is substituted by $[D_m—(CHR_3)_n]_qY$or a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system which contains at least one aromatic ring;

Y is hydrogen, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system which contains at least one aromatic ring or




;

m is 0 or1;

n is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

r is 0 or 1;

q is 0 or 1;

s is 0 to 2; and

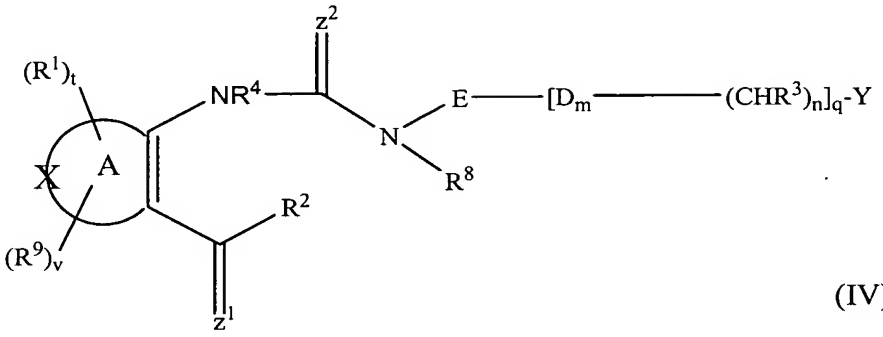
t is 0 to 3;

with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded:

compounds wherein ring A is an unsubstituted carbocycle containing six carbon atoms and one double bond between the $CZ^1$ and $CZ^2$-substituents, [[Z]] $\underline{z}^1$=[[Z]] $\underline{z}^2$=O, and s is 0; 1,3,5-Tribenzyl-2,4,6-trioxopyrrolo[3,4-d]imidazole, 1,3-Dibenzyl-5-(4-methoxy-benzyl)-2,4,6-trioxopyrrolo[3,4-d]imidazole, 1,3-Bis-(4methoxybenzyl)-5-benzyl-2,4,6-trioxopyrrolo[3,4-d]imidazole, and 1,3-Tris-(4-methoxybenzyl)-2,4,6-trioxo-pyrrolo[3,4-d]imidazole.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A compound of the general formula (IV) or a salt or physiologically functional derivative thereof,



(IV)

wherein

A is a non-heterocyclic, non-aromatic ring system containing 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 carbon atoms, wherein the ring system comprises at least one double bond and wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring represented by X may be carbonyl (C=O);

D is O, S, $SO_2$, $NR^4$, or $CH_2$;

[[Z]] $z^1$ and [[Z]] $z^2$ are, independently, O, S, or $NR^5$;

$R^1$ is independently H, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy $-CO_2R``$, $-SO_3H$, -OH, -CONR*R``, -CR``O, $-SO_2$-NR*R``, $-NO_2$, $-SO_2$-R``, -SO-R*, -CN, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, -NR``-C02-R`, -NR``-CO-R*, -NR``-SO2-R`, -O-CO-R*, - O-CO2-R*, -O-CO NR*R``; cycloalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl, -SH, or alkyl;

R* is independently H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R` is independently H, $-CO_2R``$, -CONHR``, CR``O, $-SO_2NR``$, -NR``-CO-haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, NR``-$SO_2$-haloalkyl, -NR``-$SO_2$-alkyl, $-SO_2$-alkyl, -NR``-CO-alkyl, -CN, alkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl or heteroaryl;

R`` is independently hydrogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or aminoalkyl;

$R^2$ is H or $OR^6$, $NHR^7$, $NR^7OR^7$ or $R^2$ together with the nitrogen atom which is attached to $R^8$ form a 6 membered heterocyclic ring with the proviso that $R^2$ is $-[CH_2]_8$ and $R^8$ is absent;

$R^3$ is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, O-aryl; O-cycloalkyl, halogen, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxylamino, hydroxylalkyl, haloalkyloxy, heteroaryl, alkylthio, S-aryl; S-cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, or haloalkyl;

$R^4$ is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

$R^5$ is H, OH, alkoxy, O-aryl, alkyl or aryl;

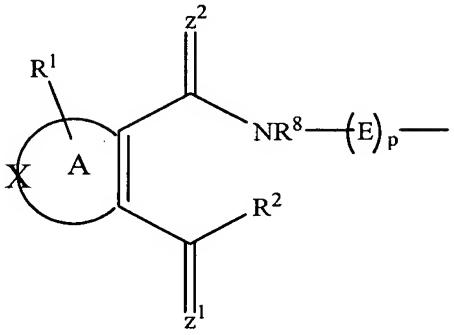
$R^6$ is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, alkylaryl, alkoxyalkyl, acylmethyl, (acyloxy)alkyl, non-symmetrical (acyloxy)alkyldiester, or dialkylphosphate;

$R^7$ is H, OH, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, O-aryl, cycloalkyl, or O-cycloalkyl;

$R^8$ is hydrogen, or alkyl;

E is an alkyl or cycloalkyl group which is substituted by $[D_m—(CHR_3)_n]_qY$ or a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system which contains at least one aromatic ring;

Y is hydrogen, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system which contains at least one aromatic ring or




m is 0 or 1;

n is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

q is 0 or 1;

s is 0 to 2; and

t is 0 to 3;

with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded: 5,5-Dimethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-phenyl-ureido)-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 2[3-(4-Chlorophenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-[[ftiran]] furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 2[3-(4-Methoxylphenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 2[3-(4-Methylphenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-[[fume]] furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 2[3-(4-Nitrophenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5,5-dimethyl-2-(3-phenyl-ureido)-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2[3-(4-chlorophenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic-[[aeid]] acid methyl ester, 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2[3-(4-m[[o]]ethoxyphenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2 [3-(4-methylphenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, or 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2[3-(4-nitrophenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

the compound of claim 1; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

the compound of Claim 2, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claims 7-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A method for treating a disease associated with the expression of dihydroorotate dehydrogenase ("DHODH") comprising administering an amount of the compound of Claim 1 effective to inhibit the activity of DHODH to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A method for treating a disease associated with the expression of DHODH comprising administering an amount of the compound of Claim 2 effective to inhibit the activity of DHODH to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 19, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatism, an acute immunological disorder, an autoimmune disease, a disease caused by malignant cell proliferation, an inflammatory disease, a disease that is caused by a protozoal infestation, a disease that is caused by a viral infection, *Pneumocystis carinii*, fibrosis, uveitis, rhinitis, asthma and athropathy.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 19, comprising administering a compound of the general formula (I) or a salt thereof.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, which is compound of the general formula (I) in free form.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, which is a salt of a compound of general formula (I).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, which is a physiologically functional derivative of a compound of general formula (I).

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein ring A contains five carbon atoms.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein ring A contains a single double bond between the carbon atoms carrying substituents $Cz^1$ and $Cz^2$.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein ring A contains a single X group which is carbonyl (C=O).

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein none of the carbon atoms is replaced by X, which is carbonyl.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein $R^1$ is OH, $OCH_3$, SH, $CO_2H$, $SO_3H$ or tetrazole.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein $R^9$ is H.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The compound of Claim 1, wherein $R^2$ is [[OH or]] $OR^6$.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein $R^8$ is H or methyl.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein Y is optionally substituted phenyl.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein D is S or O and m = 1.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein $z^1$ and $z^2$ are both O.